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The National Security Working Group (NSWG) provides wide-spectrum coverage of issues like the Iranian threat, missile defense, sequestration, New START, events in Syria and more. We look forward to providing this newsletter to RSC members and welcome your input throughout the 113th Congress.

No free speech highlights even more problems with Iranian nuclear deal (Rep. Franks)

Any deal that allows the Iranian Regime to enrich; uranium or produce plutonium, falls far short of a responsible agreement for the United States and our allies. The proposed terms of this interim agreement essentially rollback Iran's nuclear program by three weeks, allowing for Iran to perpetuate a nuclear regime for any means they see fit.

But perhaps the most disappointing display during these negotiations was the complete lack of public interaction by this Administration on the issue of human rights and political prisoners in Iran. Perhaps nothing better exposes the cruel cynicism of the Iranian regime and its lack of true reform than its flippant attitude toward imprisoned Iranian Americans such as Pastor Saeed Abedini. Essentially, this deal means we have given Iran a yellow light on yellow caking, but a green light on everything else.

Iran's Nobel Peace Prize winner Shirin Ebadi told the Daily Beast that the only way the world will know that Iran's government is actually changing into a trustworthy regime is if it releases all political prisoners. Ebadi named specific Bahai's, lawyers, journalists and student leaders still in jail. "The government announced that they had released political prisoners on amnesty but that is not true," she said.

Potentially the regime's most blatant cynicism its use of social media to spread its messages around the world, while banning it at home. Fittingly, Iran's Foreign Minister announced the nuclear deal on Twitter, but Iranians cannot see the tweet because the regime prohibits them from accessing the site.

What is the Iranian government afraid of? As the international community fawns over new Iranian leaders like Zarif, the regime appears to be winning the PR game and successfully convinced some world leaders that they are capable of standing by their word on a nuclear agreement. But any government that is unwilling to allow freedom of speech within their own borders has already shown the weaknesses in their foundation.

The authoritarian Supreme Leader, Khamenei is 74 years old and has been in power since 1989. What happens when he takes a leave of absence? We may not be so fortunate to get a so-called moderate like President Rouhani. If the Iranian government cannot be trusted to support human rights and freedom of speech within their country, why would we trust them to abide a complex nuclear deal with the entire human family held hostage?

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